

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 15, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Frank Paul Caruso III, a member of the San Diego Chapter of the Hells Angels, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in San Diego by the Honorable Irma E. Gonzalez to serve 57 months in custody, based on Caruso's conviction for racketeering. Judge Gonzalez also ordered that Caruso serve a three-year term of supervised release following his release from prison, during which time Caruso will not be allowed to associate with the Hells Angels. Caruso also must pay a \$100 special assessment.

On May 24, 2005, Caruso pleaded guilty to conspiracy to participate in an enterprise through a pattern of racketeering. According to court documents, Caruso conspired with other members of the San Diego Chapter of the Hells Angels to murder members of the Mongols motorcycle club. Caruso and others were intercepted, pursuant to court-authorized wiretaps, plotting murder and committing other crimes from July

2002 through May 2003. In June 2003, Caruso, and ten other members of the San Diego Chapter of the Hells Angels were indicted by a federal grand jury on racketeering charges involving conspiracy to commit murder, drug trafficking, and extortion, among other crimes. To date, eight other members or associates of the Hells Angels have pleaded guilty to racketeering charges. They are scheduled to be sentenced at various times over the next two months. The two remaining Hells Angels' defendants are set to begin trial on October 25, 2005.

U.S. Attorney Lam praised the efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Narcotics Task Force, the San Diego Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the San Diego Police Department, and the El Cajon Police Department, which culminated in the successful prosecution and criminal conviction of Caruso.

DEFENDANT

Frank Paul Caruso III

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(d) – Conspiracy to participate in an enterprise through a pattern of racketeering.

Maximum Penalty: Life imprisonment
 \$250,000 fine
 Three years of supervised release

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration
Narcotics Task Force
San Diego County Sheriff's Department
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
San Diego Police Department
El Cajon Police Department